

491; the VP1 protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 492 to 791; the P2A protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 792 to 980; the P2B protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 981 to 1087; the P2C protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 1088 to 1422; the P3A protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 1423 to 1496; the P3B protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 1497 to 1519; the P3C protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 1520 to 1738; and conservative variations thereof, wherein the antigenically reactive peptide binds to an antibody specifically antigenically reactive with a peptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 38, 42 - 46 and conservative variations thereof.

71. (Thrice amended) The antigenically reactive peptide of claim 70, wherein the amino acid sequence includes individual substitutions, deletions or additions which alter, add or delete a single amino acid or a small percentage of amino acids, and wherein the antigenically reactive peptide binds to an antibody specifically antigenically reactive with a peptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 38 and 42 - 46.

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77. (Amended) An isolated, antigenically reactive HAV peptide, the antigenically reactive peptide comprising an amino acid sequence of a portion of an HAV protein selected from the group consisting of the VP3 protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 246 to 491; the VP1 protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 492 to 791; the P2A protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 792 to 980; the P2B protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 981 to 1087; the P2C protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 1088 to 1422; the P3A protein of HAV corresponding

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to amino acids 1423 to 1496; the P3B protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 1497 to 1519; the P3C protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 1520 to 1738, wherein the antigenically reactive peptide lacks a portion of sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:38-43, and wherein the antigenically reactive peptide binds to an antibody specifically antigenically reactive with a peptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 38, 42 - 46 and conservative variations thereof.

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79. (Amended) An isolated, antigenically reactive HAV peptide, the antigenically reactive peptide comprising an amino acid sequence of only a portion of at least two HAV proteins selected from the group consisting of the VP3 protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 246 to 491; the VP1 protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 492 to 791; the P2A protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 792 to 980; the P2B protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 981 to 1087; the P2C protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 1088 to 1422; the P3A protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 1423 to 1496; the P3B protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 1497 to 1519; and the P3C protein of HAV corresponding to amino acids 1520 to 1738, wherein the antigenically reactive peptide binds to an antibody specifically antigenically reactive with a peptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 38, 42 - 46 and conservative variations thereof, wherein at least one HAV protein selected is the P2A protein and wherein the antigenically reactive peptide is not a full-length HAV polyprotein.

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